

Andover Way
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Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Malbon



12th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support over these very challenging weeks. I don't think any of us could have imagined the circumstances we find ourselves in and I'm incredibly grateful for all the encouragements, kindness and positive comments we have received from so many of you via Twitter, email, phone calls and home visits. It has also been wonderful to see some of the great work and activities you have been doing at home and again, I thank you for all you are doing to support your children in keeping their learning going whilst they are not in school.

You will know that the government has asked Headteachers to prepare to re-open schools to children in some year groups from 1st June. Those year groups are **Nursery (oldest children), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**. Children who are currently attending because they are either children of key workers or supported by a social worker will also be able to continue attending – even if they are not in these year groups.

The plans we are now working on have the safety of your children and of our staff as the highest priority. There are a raft of measures we will need to implement in school in order to minimise the risk of infection and maintain as much social distancing as is possible in a primary school. It is important that you appreciate school will be very different to what your children are used to and that it cannot be 'business as usual.' There will also be changes to the way in which you are able to access the site, drop off and pick up children in order to comply with appropriate social distancing measures.

Over the next few days, a member of staff will be contacting parents and carers of children in the specified year groups to get an indication of your intention to send your child back to school. You will appreciate that this information is really important in order to help us plan for groupings, movements around the school, timings and staffing arrangements. The following list might help inform your decision:

- Children will be placed in classes of no more than 15 children
- Your child may not have their usual teacher
- Your child may not have their usual classroom
- We may need to reorganise classes so your child could be with different children
- Start and finish times will be different for each class to enable social distancing at drop off/pick up times
- Children will not be allowed to mix with other classes to support social distancing; they will remain in their 'group' throughout the day including break and lunch times
- There will be no hot meals provided; school can provide packed lunches
- We will operate a recovery curriculum, the priority will be on supporting children's emotional well-being in the first instance

Awakening Curiosity; Creating Success.

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It is also crucially important that you inform us if a member of your household is classed as **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**, that is they received a letter or text from the NHS informing them to 'shield' for a minimum of twelve weeks.

I know that there is much to think about and you will want to make the right decision for your child and your family. We will not be pressurising anyone into taking up a place and no parent will be penalised in any way if you choose not to send your child.

What we all want is for schools to be full again with everything back to normal. This is the first small step towards that. The government have stressed that this re-opening will happen if the science and data around the virus continue to tell us it is ok to start making these moves. Let's hope that we truly are over the worst of this horrible virus and that we can begin to edge back to some familiar activities.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

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